



Creating Caring Community

2014 BI-ANNUAL NEWSLETTER

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“JUMP is not a place, but an action...”

JUMP is not a place, but rather an *action* where the community challenges of poverty are identified and confronted head on every day. Beginning with the first client interview when we ask “Is there anything else you wish to tell us”, the response might range from “my hours got cut and summer vacation is hard – it costs more to feed the kids” to “I could use new socks and foot powder. I’m really concerned about my feet”, or “I camp outdoors year round. I use adhesive shoe glue to repair my tent, sleeping bag, clothes and shoes but each tube costs \$6.00”. We’ve also heard “I’m basically homeless by choice since I left my abusive relationship” and “I moved here from Iraq four years ago. My husband can’t work because of his heart and diabetes.”

No, JUMP is not a place, but rather a *blessing*. It has become a call to action where staff, volunteers and working partners discover and share many talents in open dialogue. We engage in purposeful conversation as we move beyond the gulf of our own social and economic differences to help neighbors affected by mental or physical illness, homelessness or substandard housing, recent incarceration, domestic violence, single parenthood, substance abuse, unemployment or low wages. Ultimately, JUMP is a call to action to respond to unconditional united need presented by POVERTY.

This unconditional united need

allows us to recognize that we all have talents; clients, volunteers and staff...we all have talents. At the end of the day, when we face the unconditional united needs presented by poverty and then make use of all our gifts, talents and rich perspectives, we find solutions. Furthermore, we find comfort in knowing we are so much more than our “brother’s keeper”, that we are our “neighbor’s keeper” in facing the many challenges that poverty presents.

We engage in purposeful conversation as we move beyond the gulf of our own social and economic differences...

JUMP is grateful for the gifts and talents of 26 area faith communities which have provided 35% of JUMP’s annual operating budget. Generous gifts of individuals, businesses and foundations have helped to provide the rest of needed funds which we are equally grateful.

JUMP’s purpose when it was founded by downtown faith communities in 1988 was “to increase effectiveness of each faith community’s outreach ministry by consolidating assistance to needy people in the community.” Even then, the many talents were drawn together by unconditional united need and purpose.



This collaboration does not require any particular faith teachings but instead honors and accepts whatever faith journey the client may be on. We share a listening ear and interfaith resources if requested by a client.

Today, JUMP remains a call to action where staff, volunteers and working partners help our most vulnerable stay healthy and maintain dignity. We help with the most basic requests: “do you have a housing list”, “I need a ding table to serve food”, “where can I get clothes for a job interview”, “I need money to do my laundry.”

NO...JUMP is not a place but an action where exiting clients even provide words of solace and gratefulness to staff and volunteers. Occasionally we hear at the end of an interview, “it is a relief that there are people like you all, caring enough about strangers to donate time and money. Thank you all and bless you”. **That makes our day!**

- Wanda Hines
director@jumpvt.org

“Celebrating over 25 years...Joint Urban Ministry Project“

A Message from the JUMP Board President: Beth Dreibelbis

A Band-Aid is sometimes just what you need... Sometimes people worry that JUMP is a band-aid, not a cure, for a huge problem in our society. I've heard this many times. I never really know what to say and always feel like I need to justify our work at JUMP, but this month life gave me an answer.

I am 63 but apparently, my elbow skin is 103. Could be the fair, Irish skin, bony elbows, medications taken for years, etc. Who knows...but the problem exists and my elbows' skin would be worn away causing bleeding, pain, and possible infection. A little problem but one that could become worse quickly due to other health

problems I have. I went to the doctor, thinking perhaps it was skin cancer, but no, it is old, fragile skin.

The problem most likely will not kill me (barring a huge serious infection) but it is a constant irritant and, literally, a pain. The cure – the proper band-aid! What I needed to do was to buy these super padded, special band-aids to protect the skin, let my body fix itself, and then in the future I may need to wear them most of the time. A small fix – not a huge cure – but oh so helpful. It has made a huge difference in my life.

JUMP is often like that for people. No, we are not a huge systemic cure for all

the troubles people are going through, but we can provide small fix, a helpful voucher for gasoline, a bag of food, money for an ID, a listening ear and caring heart. We make a tremendous difference in our clients' lives. Never underestimate the power of our JUMP band-aids....sometimes it is the perfect help.



Beth Dreibelbis

Under the Spotlight: College Street Congregational Church by Linda Gross

- ◆ College Street Congregational Church is known as “the shampoo and deodorant faith community”. In practice, each faith community collects a specific basic necessity for our neighbors in need, such as cereal, shampoo, toiletries, cleaning supplies, deodorant, etc... In addition, College Street also conducts a yearly food drive that enables them to deliver over 60 bags of groceries to JUMP.
- ◆ After a lengthy search process, College Street's new minister is Reverend Ken White, who arrived in Burlington last February from Austin Texas.
- ◆ One of the ministers of College Street Congregation, the late Rev. Mark Follansbee, was one of the first directors of JUMP; he inspired many of the five volunteers who are presently working at JUMP: Barbara Stearns, Anne Kriesel, Ron Pynn, Claire Willis, and Joan Matthews. Rev. Follansbee passed away in July at the age of 95.
- ◆ This year, College Street Congregational Church, St. Paul's Cathedral, Christ Church Presbyterian and First Baptist Church are sponsoring a holiday giving fair and festive event called GIFTS THAT GIVE which will benefit 16 area non-profit agencies, including JUMP. This fair will be held at Contois Auditorium on December 7 between the hours of 11 am and 3 pm. At various tables when you purchase your “gifts that give” (in the form of one or more donations to the non-profit organizations), you may also receive some sort of token which you can give to the recipient in lieu of some other wrapped gift. Be sure to think about attending this fair as part of your holiday shopping!

When asked recently for a comment on JUMP's work in the community, Rev. White and volunteer Barbara Stearns responded thusly:



Pastor Ken White and Wanda Hines; JUMP Director

Rev. White believes, “JUMP gives us a way to engage with the community and to learn from those we serve. The intentional one-on-one connections that take place at JUMP are truly life-giving. As an added bonus, it's a great way to get to know friends from other churches who are working there as well!”

Long-time Volunteer and Ex-Board President, Barbara Stearns relates that “because of JUMP's work in the community, families have a safe haven to visit for emotional, social and physical support. When families leave JUMP they always say thank you to the volunteers for the vouchers and hospitality. Speaking from experience, I know the encouraging encounter between the volunteer and the recipient can be enriching for both!”

JUMP Supports the Local Business Economy

In 2013, JUMP distributed 6518 vouchers valued at \$117,227 in the following categories; Transportation, Food, Household Goods, Utilities, Laundry, Finance and Healthcare. JUMP would like to support and thank the 38 partnering vendors who continue to help create a more caring community: Handy's Service Station, Riverside Beverage, Bike Recycle VT, CCTA, Chick's Market, City Market, Community Halal Store, Dot's Market, Good Luck Market, Himalayan Food Market, Shaw's, Shopping Bag, Thai Phat Market, Mawuhi African Market, Price Chopper, Hannaford's, JR's Corner Store, ReSource, Lakeside Pharmacy, Opportunities Credit Union, Every Monday Thrift Shop, Goodwill, Possibilities Shop, Shalom Shuk, Blue Flame Gas, Burlington Electric Department, Green Mountain Power, Suburban Propane, VELCO, VT Gas, John Leo and Sons, Pyrofax, Rowley Fuel, Greer's Laundry, Wash Spot, King Street Laundry

JUMP participates in local 100,000 Homes Campaign



Janean from
Main Street Barbers

Late October, JUMP participated in a community wide initiative, the 100,000 Homes Campaign, a 3-day homeless registry event in the greater Burlington area. The JUMP drop in center was used to provide free health screenings, dental checks, hospitality, haircuts, needed toiletries and food. Over, 80 neighbors affected by homelessness or substandard housing attended.

Working in partnership with the city of Burlington, United Way, Chittenden County Continuum of Care, the Burlington Housing Authority, the Howard Center, Veterans Affairs, Fletcher Allen, the Community Health Center, Safe Harbor, COTS, First Congregational Church of Burlington VT and many more, the goal of this initiative was to create a by-name registry of our neighbors living in the streets and shelters. Hopefully, the registry will help identify and implement strategies to decrease chronic homelessness.

Visit Vermont Coalition to End Homelessness for 3-day registry results by the numbers:
<http://helpingtohousevt.org/2014/10/30/organizers-of-the-100000-homes-campaign-in-burlington-come-together-to-share-findings/>

After a successful RUN...Suzie Crews stepping down as Coordinator

On September 27th JUMP runners, walkers and supporters gathered to help create a more caring community and to participate in the 17th Annual Run for JUMP. It was a beautiful Fall morning for running or walking. We raised more than \$16,000.

Congratulations to the top male and female runners – Wondu Summa and Suzy Garritty

We are extremely grateful for the vast community participation and thankful to our many donors, underwriters and sponsors. It is because of community-minded individuals like you that help is available for those in need.

Suzie Crews, JUMP Board member, will be stepping down after coordinating the event for seven years. Suzie has worked diligently every year to grow the RUN into the wonderful event it is today. We will miss Suzie, her enthusiasm and work ethic. Please contact Wanda Hines; JUMP Director, if interested in the next RUN for JUMP in September, 2015.

Please, see last page for Underwriter and Sponsor Thank You list



Beth Dreibelbis and Suzie Crews

Congratulations Rick Robinson!

In September, Rick Robinson received a 2014 Building Block Volunteer Award for his outstanding service. United Way of Chittenden County honored 49 local volunteers at the LIVE UNITED Breakfast. The awards honor volunteers who make a difference in our community through their generous gift of time.



Carolyn Rushford, Beth Dreibelbis,
Rick Robinson, Barbara Stearns
and Wanda Hines at the event

Rick Robinson is a dedicated 16 year JUMP volunteer in the Drop in Center for emergency assistance. In addition, he serves on the JUMP Board and Fundraising Committee.

When asked, "How do you do it?" He easily responded, "I am a religious person so I know that it is indeed more blessed to give than to receive. I have enjoyed being blessed by the people I have

helped over the past 16 years and by the people I work with who are carrying out JUMP's mission. JUMP is a wonderful caring ministry that helps our neighbors in need."

JUMP Steps out in the Community

Starting the school year, JUMP's **BACK TO SCHOOL SUPPLY DISTRIBUTION** at the Riverside Family Development in Burlington's Old North End was a great success. Volunteers from JUMP and the Burlington Housing Authority (BHA) welcomed thrilled children and parents from the Development and surrounding neighborhoods.

JUMP distributed 109 school supply bags filled with colorful folders, pencils, rulers, water bottles, erasers, notebooks and markers, along with words of academic inspiration tucked into each.



Staff Mary Stannard Carter and Guest

The event was made possible by: BHA, Association of Africans Living in Vermont, Burl. Boys and Girls Club, Americorp State "We All Belong" and J&M Neighborhood Store.

Hoehl Family Foundation awards JUMP \$10,000: Mission--to enhance the lives of Vermonters through the support of nonprofits that help meet Vermonters' basic human needs, education, religious beliefs and health. JUMP is very thankful for the Hoehl Foundation awarded grant. Four hundred and sixteen families will now have fuel in their vehicles to ensure a means to get to work, school, a doctor appointment, employment search, or grocery shopping...direct access to dependable transportation.



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Creating Caring Community...

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Wanda Hines; Director
Gary O’Gorman; Direct Service/Bookkeeping
Mary Stannard Carter; Direct Service



...a proven, consistent resource for Vermont households facing the challenges of poverty.

“This year’s event surely was The Best Jump Supper Ever”

On November 2nd, faith community members, friends and family gathered at the 1st United Methodist Church for the JUMP BEST SUPPER EVER!!!

The highly anticipated annual fundraising event was made possible by the 26 participating faith communities, bringing to the table a buffet of their best food traditions. The event offered a choice of two sittings, and each was well attended. Sponsored tickets made it possible for 20 of our neighbors to join in the fun. The following day, JUMP was asked to kindly deliver this message to those responsible:

“We had a wonderful time, and the food was beautifully prepared, warm and delicious. This year’s event surely was The Best Jump Supper Ever, a sentiment shared by everyone at our table. Kudos to the hard-working organizers, cooks and waitstaff that made it all possible.” JUMP also wishes to wholeheartedly thank the seven UVM students who gave of their time to help ensure the smooth flow of the evening, and welcomes their continued volunteer support in the future.



Wanda Hines and Volunteer UVM Students

RUN For JUMP

Made possible by:



Underwriters: Gravel and Shea, Northfield Savings Bank, O’Brien Brothers Agency

Gold Sponsors: City Market, Gadue’s Dry Cleaning, Hampton Direct.

Sponsors: Apex Carpet and Upholstery Care, August First Bakery, Blodgett, Watts, Volk and Sussman, P.C., Essex Pediatrics, Midas of South Burlington, Handy’s Service Center, The Skinny Pancake, Stone Soup, Riverside Beverage

Thank you Underwriters and Sponsors

Do you “Like” Facebook? *By Linda Gross for the JUMP Communications Committee*

Your JUMP Communications Committee is interested in growing our membership on Facebook. Currently we have 173 friends but surely we could make that figure soar to 300 and beyond. A more significant Facebook presence for JUMP could be a win/win all the way around, helping us get the word out about all the great work JUMP does for our Burlington area community. We could accomplish this task if Facebook folks reading this article would take just four easy steps.



- ◆ “Like” JUMP and you’ll get regular messages on your home page from us.
- ◆ Share something about the good work JUMP does and why you like it on your own page. Consider writing about a great experience you had after spending a morning with clients at JUMP. If you have a smartphone, you could even share a picture. *Remember – no client’s names or faces, please.*
- ◆ Invite folks in your faith communities as well as other friends to “like” JUMP.
- ◆ If your faith community has their own Facebook page, ask the administrator to “like” JUMP.